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August 30, 2007

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** UST Owners

**From:** ADEM UST Compliance Unit

**Re:** New ADEM Regulations for UST Systems  
Effective August 6, 2007

ADEM's underground storage tank (UST) regulations were revised August 6, 2007 to accommodate EPA requirements from the 2005 Energy Act. ADEM now requires all new (and replacement) USTs and piping to be double wall and UST owners must use interstitial monitoring for leak detection on all new (and replacement) UST systems. In addition, new (and replacement) UST systems must have submersible pump sumps, and new dispensers must have under dispenser containment.

There are also a few changes to the operation and maintenance requirements for existing UST facilities. Spill catchment basins (spill buckets) and sump sensors must be tested annually. A log of the results must be kept.

Under dispenser containment and submersible pump sumps must be inspected annually. A log of the results must be kept. Breaches in under dispenser containment or submersible pump sumps must be repaired. If under dispenser containment and submersible pump sumps are used to meet leak detection requirements, they must remain free of water.

Repairs to existing piping may be made only if one repair of less than five feet can be made to one piping run within a 30-day period. Otherwise, for a given piping run, double wall piping must be installed and interstitial monitoring must be used for leak detection.

Leak detection systems which alert the operator to the presence of a leak only by audible or visual alarm must be modified prior to August 6, 2008 to also include the ability to restrict or shutoff the flow of regulated substances.

Two new reporting requirements were clarified in the UST regulations revision. Cathodic protection system tests must now be submitted to the Department for review, and assessment reports are required to be submitted for UST piping closures.

A list of commonly asked questions and answers is enclosed. If you have any other questions about ADEM's new UST regulations please call (334) 270-5655.



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers  
(ADEM UST Regulations Revision, 8-6-2007)

**Part I. Background and Basic Q/A's**

**Q. When did ADEM amend the Underground Storage Tank Compliance Regulations and why?**

**A. The regulations were amended on August 6, 2007 to comply with requirements from the Federal Energy Act of 2005, Underground Storage Tank Provision.**

**Q. Who will be affected by these regulation changes?**

**A. Anyone who plans to install or replace a tank, piping, or dispenser will be affected as well as any current UST system owner and operator.**

**Q. What are the regulatory changes for new installations?**

**A. All new UST systems installed on August 6, 2007 and thereafter will have to meet new technical standards. This includes a requirement for all new underground storage tanks and piping to be double walled and use a method of interstitial monitoring for release detection.**

**Q. What are some of the regulatory changes that will affect existing UST facilities?**

**A. All existing UST facilities will be required to have an annual test of the catchment basin(s). All existing facilities with secondary containment sumps will be required to have an annual inspection of the containment sump(s). All pressurized piping relying on a continuous alarm sensor as the release detection method will be required to upgrade/install either a shut off device or automatic flow restrictor by August 6, 2008. All sump sensors used for leak detection will be required to be tested annually.**

**Part II. Technical Q/A's**

**Q. When I test my catchment basin and one of them fails, will I be in compliance or do I have to make the necessary repair/replacement first?**

**A. A facility with a catchment basin that has failed an annual test will not be in compliance with ADEM regulations until the necessary repair/replacement is made.**

**Q. What if the catchment basin has leaked, and a release is discovered?**

**A. When a regulated substance is being released or is suspected to have been released from the catchment basin to the surrounding surface or subsurface, the Department must be notified of a suspected release in accordance with Rule 335-6-15-.20.**

Q. What do I have to check for or do to my existing double wall piping sites after August 6, 2007?

A. Whether submersible pump sumps or under dispenser containment sumps are used to meet release detection, or not, they must be inspected annually. The inspection must be documented and/or logged. If there is leakage of product into the containment a repair must be made to stop the leak and the product must be disposed of properly. If leakage escapes containment, then a release must be reported and the system must be shut-down. The leak must be repaired and the sump must be repaired before going back into operation.

Q. What if I have water in a sump?

A. It must always be removed if the system is using interstitial monitoring as the release detection method. If breaches are found in any existing sump the necessary repair/replacement must be made.

Q. Are there any other requirements for double wall systems starting August 6, 2007?

A. All sump sensors used for leak detection require annual testing and a log of the tests is required to be kept.

Q. I am repairing and/or installing a new dispenser system at an existing facility? What does ADEM require?

A. If a dispenser is replaced and the equipment necessary to connect the dispenser to the UST system (check valves, shear valves, unburied risers, flex connectors, or other transitional components which connect the dispenser to the underground piping) is not replaced then there is no requirement to install under dispenser containment. However, if such equipment is also replaced then under dispenser containment is required to be installed. The same rule applies for repairs to dispensers.

Q. I want to repair piping at an existing UST site with single wall lines. Do I have to now install double wall?

A. Repairs may be made to existing piping only if no more than one repair of less than 5 ft is made to one run of piping within a 30 day period. Otherwise, for a given piping run, double wall piping must be installed and interstitial monitoring must be used for leak detection.

Q. Will ADEM provide guidance and forms for documenting catchment basin testing and sump inspections?

A. ADEM has created forms, guidance documents, and log sheets that are available for owners, operators, UST installers, and petroleum contractors to use to conduct these tests and inspections.